

September 12, 2021

"But I tell you..."

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks the door will be opened...So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."
Matthew 7:7-12

If you were told to sum up your relationship with the Father in heaven what would you say? How would you describe that relationship? In a very real way that is exactly what the Master is doing in our context for today. This paragraph is the perfect summation of God's relationship with us and our relationship with God.

Our Lord begins with this simple idea that all of us know so well. *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks the door will be opened."* My relationship with my heavenly Father is founded on his nature as a perfect loving parent. If I ask of him he will provide. If I seek for him and his will I will find it. And, if I knock on the door to eternity, he will open it for me.

As the perfect loving Father that he is our God will provide for us everything that we need. As James describes it, *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights..."* (James 1:17) God's roll in our common relationship is to perfectly provide for us, just as he supplied us with his saving grace in the sacrifice of his Son on the cross. As Paul concludes in Romans 8:32, *"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"*



So, in our relationship with our Father and God he is the provider, the source of everything that we need, and we in turn are called to obey him. Jesus would say, *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."* (Matthew 16:24-25) For my part I am called to surrender my very life to the God of glory.

But, what does that look like in the day-to-day life that I live? Jesus would tell us that our part in this covenant relationship with the Father is bound up *"...in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you..."* As we have often discussed, the central principle in our lives as believers, is to demonstrate our love for the Father in the way we treat others. In fact, this is the

only tangible way for me to demonstrate my love for my heaven Father. My love or lack of love for the Father is demonstrated every day in how I treat others who are, after all, his creation.

So, in our relationship with the Father he is always the perfect provider and loving parent and as his children we live out our love for him in how we treat one another every day.

